

# **Notice Regarding Disclosure Requirements**

Information disclosure is a requirement for counselors registered under Chapter 18.19 RCW. A brochure entitled “Counseling or Hypnotherapy Clients” published by the Department of Health contains some of the necessary disclosure information.

Excerpts from the “Law Relating to Registered Counselors and Hypnotherapists” which pertain to disclosure to clients are included on this notice.

If you have questions, please contact the Registered Counselors and Hypnotherapists Program at (360) 236-4915 or Department of Health, Health Professions Quality Assurance, PO Box 47869, Olympia, Washington 98504-7869.

You can click on the links below to review the following WAC’s and RCW’s on disclosure information:

**[RCW 18.19.060 Information disclosure to clients](#)**

**[WAC 246-810-030 Client disclosure information](#)**

**[WAC 246-810-031 Required disclosure information](#)**

**[WAC 246-810-032 Failure to provide client disclosure information](#)**

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[18.19.050](#) << [18.19.060](#) >> [18.19.080](#)

### RCW 18.19.060

#### Information disclosure to clients.

Persons registered under this chapter shall provide clients at the commencement of any program of treatment with accurate disclosure information concerning their practice, in accordance with guidelines developed by the department, that will inform clients of the purposes of and resources available under this chapter, including the right of clients to refuse treatment, the responsibility of clients for choosing the provider and treatment modality which best suits their needs, and the extent of confidentiality provided by this chapter. The disclosure information provided by the counselor, the receipt of which shall be acknowledged in writing by the counselor and client, shall include any relevant education and training, the therapeutic orientation of the practice, the proposed course of treatment where known, any financial requirements, and such other information as the department may require by rule. The disclosure information shall also include a statement that registration of an individual under this chapter does not include a recognition of any practice standards, nor necessarily imply the effectiveness of any treatment.

[2001 c 251 § 22; 1987 c 512 § 6.]

#### NOTES:

**Severability -- 2001 c 251:** See RCW [18.225.900](#).

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[246-810-030](#) << [246-810-031](#) >> [246-810-032](#)

**WAC 246-810-031 Required disclosure information.** (1) The following information shall be provided to each counseling client:

- (a) Name of firm, agency, business, or counselor's practice.
- (b) Counselor's business address and telephone number.
- (c) Washington state registration or certification number.
- (d) The counselor's name and type of counseling they provide.
- (e) The methods or techniques the counselor uses.
- (f) The counselor's education, training, and experience.
- (g) The course of treatment where known.
- (h) Billing information, including:
- (i) Client's cost per each counseling session;
- (ii) Billing practices, including any advance payments and refunds.
- (i) The following language must appear on every client's disclosure statement:

"Counselors practicing counseling for a fee must be registered or certified with the department of health for the protection of the public health and safety. Registration of an individual with the department does not include a recognition of any practice standards, nor necessarily implies the effectiveness of any treatment."

(j) Clients are to be informed of the purpose of the Counselor Credentialing Act. The purpose of the law regulating counselors is: (A) To provide protection for public health and safety; and (B) to empower the citizens of the state of Washington by providing a complaint process against those counselors who would commit acts of unprofessional conduct.

(k) Clients are to be informed that they as individuals have the right to choose counselors who best suit their needs and purposes. (This subsection is not intended to provide new rights by superseding those adopted by previous statutes.)

(l) Clients are to be informed of the extent of confidentiality provided by RCW [18.19.180](#) (1) through (6).

(m) Clients are to be provided a list of or copy of the acts of unprofessional conduct in RCW [18.130.180](#) with the name, address, and contact telephone within the department of health.

(2) Signatures are required of both the counselor providing the disclosure information and the client following a statement that the client had been provided a copy of the required disclosure information and the client has read and understands the information provided. The date of signature by each party is to be included at the time of signing.

(3) The department of health publishes a brochure for the education and assistance of the public. The department brochure may be photocopied and provided to each client in conjunction with the disclosure information required in this section. The brochure published by the department is insufficient, by itself, to meet the requirements of this section.

[Statutory Authority: RCW [18.19.050](#)(1). 97-17-113, § 246-810-031, filed 8/20/97, effective 9/20/97. Statutory

Authority: RCW [43.70.040](#). 91-02-049 (Order 121), recodified as § 246-810-031, filed 12/27/90, effective 1/31/91. Statutory Authority: RCW [18.19.060](#). 89-14-070 (Order PM 840), § 308-190-041, filed 6/30/89.]

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[246-810-031](#) << [246-810-032](#) >> [246-810-035](#)

**WAC 246-810-032 Failure to provide client disclosure information.** Failure to provide to the client any of the disclosure information as set forth in WAC [246-810-030](#) and [246-810-031](#), and as required by the law shall constitute an act of unprofessional conduct as defined in RCW [18.130.180](#) (7).

[Statutory Authority: RCW [18.19.050](#)(1). 97-17-113, § 246-810-032, filed 8/20/97, effective 9/20/97. Statutory Authority: RCW [43.70.040](#). 91-02-049 (Order 121), recodified as § 246-810-032, filed 12/27/90, effective 1/31/91. Statutory Authority: RCW [18.19.050](#). 88-11-024 (Order PM 728), § 308-190-050, filed 5/11/88.]

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[246-810-010](#) << [246-810-030](#) >> [246-810-031](#)

**WAC 246-810-030 Client disclosure information.** Counselors must provide disclosure information to each client in accordance with chapter [18.19](#) RCW prior to implementation of a treatment plan. The disclosure information must be specific to the type of counseling service offered; in language that can be easily understood by the client; and contain sufficient detail to enable the client to make an informed decision whether or not to accept treatment from the disclosing counselor.

Firms, agencies, or businesses having more than one counselor involved in a client's treatment, may provide disclosure information general to that agency. In these cases, the counselor would not be required to duplicate the information disclosed by the agency.

The disclosure information may be printed in a format of the counselor's choosing, but must include all required disclosure information per WAC [246-810-031](#).

[Statutory Authority: RCW [18.19.050](#)(1). 97-17-113, § 246-810-030, filed 8/20/97, effective 9/20/97. Statutory Authority: RCW [43.70.040](#). 91-02-049 (Order 121), recodified as § 246-810-030, filed 12/27/90, effective 1/31/91. Statutory Authority: RCW [18.19.060](#). 89-14-070 (Order PM 840), § 308-190-040, filed 6/30/89. Statutory Authority: RCW [18.19.050](#). 88-11-024 (Order PM 728), § 308-190-040, filed 5/11/88.]

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